

# palestine perspectives

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## In Occupied Palestine, Institutionalized Terror

Institutionalized terror inflicted on the Palestinian population by Israeli authorities has not become just petty, vindictive and intolerable. It is acquiring a meaning all of its own: To create social conditions in Palestine that may be such as to render nearly impossible the conduct of daily life by the Palestinians.

The most recent manifestation of this is the news from the West Bank recently of Israel's attempts to choke to death the pursuit of education by the Palestinian people, which in turn would lead to their gradual, mass emigration.

The news has passed largely unnoticed by the media in this country, but it is news of the most devastating nature.

On July 6, the Israeli military authorities issued three military orders concerning higher education in the occupied territories that are likely to have the most debilitating impact not only on the freedom of education in occupied Palestine but also on the ability of Palestinians to keep open their institutions of higher learning.



According to these three directives, all Palestinian institutions of academic, technical and vocational learning will now fall under the jurisdiction of the military authorities, and will operate under "temporary license" to be renewed every year upon the approval of the military governor—as if they were your local, neighborhood liquor stores.

Moreover, the directives assert, both students and faculty have to receive written permission from the military governor before joining the institutions; and this military governor is authorized to consult with the chief of police concerning any permits given to students, faculty and institutions.

In the past, virtually all universities and colleges well subjected to collective punishment in the form of a total shut-down, deportations of students, the storming of the campuses and the beating up of students in their classes or dormitories, and a refusal to allow the libraries to order Arabic periodicals and books. In addition to that, many students have already been murdered by



the border police and many more arrested, tortured and incarcerated.

Short of gasping at these directives, that reflect and even surpass the Nazi sensibility that Zionism has degenerated into, there is not much one can usefully say here.

The entire nature of these directives, indeed the entire series of assaults that Israel has launched against Palestinian economic, social, political, cultural and national life, bespeaks of a terror beyond all rational understanding.

In its blatantly obvious efforts to make life intolerable enough for Palestinians that they would be driven to leave their homeland. Israel is committing the crime of the century. Education is crucial to the Palestinian people. Denied access to education, as a people without a nation-state, without the right of self-determination, the Palestinians will be denied the right to living, to life, to livelihood.

The extraordinary fact about all of this is that those who are concerned with peace in Palestine, from human rights activists down to the U.S. government, choose to remain blind to the pathological manifestations of Israeli occupation practices.



## My "Crime" Was That I Disclosed The Truth

On May 18th, the Cypriot progressive journalist, Panayotis Paschalis of "Haravghi" newspaper, returned home to Cyprus after being deported by Zionist authorities following 28 months of imprisonment in Israeli jails.

Panayotis Paschalis was interviewed by "Palestine Bulletin", after his arrival in Cyprus. The following is his account of his experience with Zionism.

"During my fifth journalistic mission to occupied Palestine on January 16, 1978, I was arrested at my hotel at night by personnel from the Zionist secret services who started interrogating me on the purpose of my visit. I declared to them that the purpose of my visit was a pure journalistic mission to report on the developments after the so-called "Peace initiative" of the Sadat regime for my newspaper, "Haravghi" and for the GDR TV. At the same time I was collecting photographic material for a book I was planning concerning the real situation in occupied Palestine, on the status of the Palestinian and the Jewish population under the Zionist regime and under occupation, the struggle of the Palestinians in their occupied country against Zionism and imperialism, and on the discrimination policy in the Zionist entity. During the first interrogation session which lasted eight consecutive hours at the Hotel Plaza, I stressed all the above and also that my mission was in the most legal way; with a visa from the Israeli embassy in Nicosia and that I had given my credentials to the press office in Tel-Aviv. I also stressed my rejection of the occupation and my support for the rights of the Palestinian people to live in their full sovereign state. My 'crime' was that I disclosed the truth behind the false show of the democracy that they claim, and mostly because I declared myself absolutely against occupation, a principle which is so vital for the Cypriot people who suffer from foreign invasion and occupation."

"After this first stage of interrogation the Shin-Bet (Israeli security service) threw me in a 1 x 1.5 meter completely closed cell in Petah Tikva police station under the most indescribable psychological tortures. I was already suffering from influenza and feeling extremely exhausted from the long interrogation at Plaza by 5 Shin-Bet agents, and after being a witness to the physical torture of a Palestinian student called Joseph Haddad who was kept next to my cell. I was again interrogated the next day



Paschallis: I disclosed the truth.

from morning until late in the afternoon. The fact that I had interviewed members of the PLO leadership and met Yasser Arafat, that I have been to the Soviet Union once as guest of *Pravda* newspaper and another time to report on the 50th anniversary of the Komsomol was a crime in the eyes of my interrogators. For them it was enough to be a spy because of my beliefs and my support to the just cause of the Palestinian revolution."

"Immediately after my arrest the controlled and directed press in Israel characterized me as one of the biggest enemies to Israel; and gave me descriptions that only apply to these forces that are supporting the existence of the most shameful racist regime in our area."

"That I am a Cypriot fighting with my pen and camera for a just cause, for the declared ideals of democracy freedom, prosperity and progress for all peoples, made it enough for the Zionists to persecute and condemn me."

"For a whole month after my arrest I had been kept in complete isolation in Petah Tikva, then I was transferred to Kfar Yuna jail and put among Jewish criminals. I was maltreated by them because of my beliefs, and was threatened to be killed by them several times under the eyes of the armed guards who kept silent—(A plan for my physical extermination was disclosed to me by the director of Kfar Yuna jail). I was forced to sleep on the floor among 15 Jewish criminals in a 20 square M. closed cell."

"During the show-trial from the 3rd to the 22nd of May 1978, I was again isolated in a dark cell in Abu Kabir. Always being transferred from my cell to the court room in a closed car like a safe box on wheels. On July 7, 1978, I was sentenced to five years in the most 'democratic' performance. Declared innocent by one of my judges but condemned by the other two with the right to appeal to the High Court which nevertheless decided after almost a year (May 1979) that my five years sentence was not enough."

"Straight after the sentence I was transferred to the Central High Security prison in Ramla. I found myself for the first time among Palestinian political prisoners (Security Prisoners for the Israelis). This started a new stage in my personal odyssey. During the first minutes after being warmly welcomed and embraced by the Palestinian fighters, I came to the conclusion that my stay in this prison had to be something quite different from the previous one. These friendly feelings did not astonish me; but surprising was the fighting spirit of all those people in spite of the fact that most of them have been imprisoned and sentenced for many years. Those people were and are continuing to feel like they were imprisoned yesterday and that tomorrow they will be set free. With very few exceptions all of them are so optimistic about the future, with the most surprising high spirit and with very high fighting morale, in unity and confidence that they will survive and continue the long march of the revolution for the Palestine motherland."

"Before my arrest I became known through my articles and photographic work to a lot of Palestinians, and after my arrest as a result of the coverage of my show-trial by the press; all the Palestinian political prisoners were informed of my case and understood the reason why I was among them. I didn't need to explain so many things about the nature of my work which they applauded—the internationalization of the just cause of Palestine, the disclosure of the oppression and the acts committed by the Zionist authorities, the condemnation of the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation. I think it is necessary to speak about the messages of encouragement received from other prisons as well; a fact that proved to me the existing fighting alertness among the Palestinian prisoners."

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# Statement by Dr. Hanna Nasir, President of Birzeit University, August 15, 1980



Students at Bir Zeit participate in a sit-in.

This is to draw attention to recent developments in the occupied West Bank that seriously threaten academic freedom and human rights in that area.

On July 6, 1980, the Israeli military authorities issued a military order no. 854—thereby amending the prevalent Jordan Law of Education. The main points of this order and three other directives concerning education that were issued on the same date are:

1) All institutions of higher learning will now fall under the jurisdiction of the military authorities.

2) All institutions of higher learning are now considered to be operating under a temporary license. Permits will now have to be renewed yearly upon the approval of the military governor.

3) Individuals have to receive a written approval from the military authorities before joining the institutions—either as students or faculty members. This directive is intended to apply to local residents as well as to foreigners.

4) The military governor may consult with the chief of police concerning the approval of any permits to be given to individuals or institutions.

It is quite obvious that these orders and directives are meant to hamper the educational process and control it as indicated hereby:

1) The mere change of the Jordan Law of Education is a violation of article 4 of the Geneva Convention, which forbids occupying authorities to change any of the laws prevalent on the eve of occupation.

2) The consideration that the present institutes of higher learning are now operating under merely a temporary license is in direct contradiction with the permanent nature of these institutions, most of which

have been operating long before the occupation and have already received international recognition and accreditation. Under the new laws, it is now possible for the military authorities to deny the renewal of the permits of the institutes—which literally means their closure—without even having to show reason for this action.

3) The need to obtain a written permit for students and faculty members before they are able to join the institutions is in contradiction with all internationally known criteria for admitting students or contracting with faculty members. Only the internal bodies of the institutions have this chartered privilege. Military authorities—and the chief of police—should have absolutely no say in these matters. It should be realized that hundreds of students have absolutely no say in these matters. It should be realized that hundreds of students and teachers have at one time or the other been interrogated, and it is suspected that such persons could—under the new law—be denied access to institutes of higher learning.



1,000 Students demonstrate at Bethlehem University.

The new military order affects all educational institutions in the West Bank, but more seriously the universities which have been established by the local residents to serve a much felt need. At present there are three universities in the West Bank with a total enrollment of about 4,300 students and an expected growth to 12,000 within the next five years or so. These universities need tremendous support for their development and certainly not any interference or restrictions on their operations.

It should be further realized that the present military order—854—represents an escalation of the military authorities' campaign against educational institutes of higher learning in the West Bank. At Bir Zeit University for example, we did suffer

tremendously from past acts which included the closing of the University for two weeks in December '73 and for two months in May and June '79; the deportation of the President of the University and two Board Members in 1974; the storming of the University campus on several occasions the beating and wounding of many students. Other actions include the refusal to grant a permit for the University to obtain Arabic periodicals and the imposing of custom duties on imported teaching material and laboratory equipment. Actions of a similar nature have taken place at the two other universities including the shooting to death of one female student at Bethlehem University and the deportation of a faculty member at Al-Najah University a few months ago.

All the past violations of the military authorities have been strongly condemned by international organizations and university personnel in various countries including Israel itself. To check the newest violations we need further support and we hope that all those who are concerned with academic freedom—Governments, individuals and international organizations—would put sufficient pressure on Israel and specifically request for the annulment of Order 854 and related directives concerning the amending of the Jordan Law of education and the imposed restrictions on institutions, students and faculty members.

As one might be fully aware, higher education needs an environment of freedom for healthy growth. The annulment of order 854 and related directives could mean a victory for academic freedom.

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## Women's Ad Hoc Committee on Middle East Conflict

The following is a telegram sent to Harold Saunders, at the State Department, August 21, by the Women's Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East in Washington.

"Having personally viewed the effects of Israeli raids against Palestinian commandos in Southern Lebanon, we know that the casualties and targets hardest hit are the children, women and civilians, churches, schools and hospitals. We abhor the recent ruthless aggression by

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## In Washington... Israel vs. the Arabs

The timidity which elected US Government officials display in the face of pressure from Israel and its friends in the US is not a secret in Washington. From President to town Mayors, all must take into consideration matters concerning Israel, the reaction of Israel and its lobbyists in this country. This behavior is best observed prior to a national election in the US.

Even the State Department—one of the federal agencies accused of harboring many ‘Arabists’—reflects very clearly this timid behavior, in spite of the fact that the head of that Department, the Secretary of State, is appointed and not elected. The Secretary of State does, however, report to the President of the US: the ‘first’ elected official of the US Government. Israeli intimidation manifests itself most clearly in US policy inconsistencies regarding the Middle East, and my interaction with the State Department spokesperson provides ample illustration.

No one in the US can escape realization of the obvious: that this is an election year. It is even more obvious to those who follow Middle East-related statements of Government agencies. The inconsistency with which the State Department treats a Middle East event is also dependent upon the political climate between the US and Israel. The US almost always deals with Israel with utmost caution and concern, but even that is intensified when the US is perceived by ‘Israelites’ in the US to be neglecting Israeli interest, albeit temporarily. These ‘Israelites’ are not always from Israel, but rather are Americans who are so protective of Israel that even the mildest of criticisms directed to it becomes of major concern for which there are rewards and punishments.

Any reported political or non-political news of concern to Israel can attract and maintain for a long time the attention of Government officials at the State Department. But when a similar news report which reflects negatively on Israel becomes available, the same officials and reporters show a total lack of interest and concern for it. When a news item surfaces which is or perceived to be against the interests of Israel, the State Department always volunteers a statement, condemning in the harshest political jargon those “criminal, uncivilized, inhumane, terrorist perpetrators.” But when Israel conducts its infamous ‘preemptive’ attacks against civilians, both Palestinian and Lebanese, it

apparently causes more ‘civilized’ and ‘humane’ death and destruction, for the same State Department not only does not volunteer any condemnation, but when asked its officials “deplore the cycle of violence” in that region.

Clear instances in support of the above argument can be traced to the mid 1940’s during the beginnings of American involvement in the Palestinian question. But for the sake of relevance and validity a few cases taken from the past few months will be observed.

On April 7, 1980 a group of Palestinians moved into Kubutz Misgav Am, took hostages and put their demands to the Israeli authorities. These demands, as it became clear later on, were the freeing from Israeli prisons of some of the Palestinian prisoners. The Israeli army, in accordance with government policy, stormed the building over which the Palestinians had taken control, and when the fighting between Israeli soldiers and the Palestinians was over, three Israelis were dead: a child, a soldier and the Kibbutz secretary. The five Palestinians who took the building were also killed.



Black Americans support Palestinian struggle.

On May 16, 1980, Israel moved into Southern Lebanon for the second time in ten days, with land, air and sea units. These Israeli moves into Southern Lebanon caused the death of eleven people and the injury of 22. The State Department did not volunteer any statement on either occasion. When asked for a comment, the State Department spokesperson said that they had seen the reports of Israeli attacks on South Lebanon which “seem to be accelerating and this is a matter of concern to us all.” The glaring difference between the two statements—which are supposed to reflect the US Government’s principled

opposition to violence—underlines their hypocrisy.

Al-Fajr then brought this obvious discrepancy to the attention of the spokesperson, asking him in particular to address himself and his government to any difference which they may see between people killed in Israel and in Lebanon. “Look,” he replied, “there is violence throughout that region. We are concerned about the loss of human life and we have deplored similar accidents on many occasions before.” An Arab journalist from Lebanon then asked the spokesperson if he “was outraged” about Israeli actions in Lebanon as he was about the Palestinian action at Misgav Am. The reply was clear: “I have given you the statement which I have,” he said. The implication being that the statement was released by higher officials at the State Department and could not be altered by the spokesperson at all.

Shortly thereafter on the 19th of May there were reports from Lebanon that 20 people had died as a result of the second Israeli incursion. Among the casualties were a woman and her two children. Al-Fajr asked again if the State Department had changed its comments in light of the new reports—other than merely “expressing concern.” The spokesperson said, “I have to let that stand.” When pressed further to explain the inconsistency, the spokesperson said, “I can appreciate that there are varying viewpoints on what is going on. . I am not in a position. . to give you the reason why different statements are made about different types of operations. I guess,” he continued, “You just have to write that and that is it.” Al-Fajr persisted, “Does the US Government value lives equally in the Middle East?” “Yes,” he replied, “We value all lives equally.” It is clear, however, that even if they do, they are not able to express symmetrical condemnation when life is taken on both sides of the Middle East conflict.

Harsh US condemnation of an Israeli action which does or does not result in bloodshed may, and many times does, make an Israeli reaction with the US inevitable, whereas a similar US castigation of an Arab action always passes virtually unnoticed. In another case, this time ‘closer to home’, the Israeli occupation authorities on the West Bank banned from West Bank distribution two Arabic newspapers, *Al-Fajr* and *Ash-Shaab*, in addition to the English edition of

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## In Washington...

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*Al-Fajr.* The reason given by the military occupation authorities was that these newspapers were provoking violence. The ban lasted for about twelve days.

Aware of US Government and media defense of the First Amendment to the US Constitution which protects freedom of the press, strong US Government disapproval of the Israeli action could have been expected, especially when Israel is portrayed here as the "only democracy in the Middle East." But when asked for a comment about this flagrant Israeli interference in the freedom of the Arab press, the State Department spokesperson said, "Our position supporting the principle of freedom of the press is well established." Concerning this case specifically, he said, "I can't reply in detail at this particular time." The same answer was given to American journalists when they inquired about *Al-Fajr* and *Ash-Shaab* and this reply was parroted by State Department officials throughout the period during which the papers were banned.

The above official State Department response to Israeli violation of freedom of the press stands in stark contrast to remarks made off the record, in personal comments not meant for publishing. Senior officials of the State Department characterized Israeli actions as "unbelievable" and "simply outrageous." "I can't believe how a government of a people who have experienced what the Jewish people did, would do to another people what Israel is doing to the Palestinians," another confided. "Israel," said another, "Has humiliated this administration..." and went on to criticize its meddling with the freedom of the press.

This and more is off the record and definitely no one wants to be quoted. It is clear that no one wants to be caught or thought of as being critical of Israel, for that



Recent demonstration in Washington.

may be his or her end in Government service. As for the lack of open criticism with regard to the banning, it was repeatedly stated by State Department officials, that it is more helpful with Israel not to criticize them for fear that they may do the very opposite!

From South Korea on August 1, there were reports that upon Government orders some journalists were fired from their duties. The State Department through its spokesperson, in defense of freedom of the press of South Korea and in reply to a journalist's question stated the following: "Any politically motivated dismissal of journalists would be inconsistent with US principles of freedom of the press." *Al-Fajr* reminded the spokesperson of the unanswered question about the Palestinian journalists and asked if the Department's

comment about the Korean event could be applied to the Palestinian situation. His reply this time was "yes."

Immediately following the Israeli ban on *Al-Fajr*, the management of the newspaper in Jerusalem received a letter of threat from "Youth For Israel" demanding that the operation of *Al-Fajr* be ceased. The authors of the letter apparently received their cue from their Government's action against the Jerusalem-based newspapers. In the early morning of August 3, terrorists planted a bomb at the door of the *Al-Fajr* newspaper office which exploded but, fortunately, did not hurt anyone. The above account, including one of the heavy but usual Israeli censorship of *Al-Fajr*, was relayed to the State Department spokesperson, who was then asked to comment upon the latest

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## In Memorium: Ann Johnson, dedicated activist for Human Rights

Ann Johnson, a senior staff case worker for Congressman Fauntroy, died on Monday, September 8 after developing a brain aneurysm as a result of a car accident in which she was involved.

Ms. Johnson was an exponent of human rights and coordinated an Ad-Hoc committee on the Middle East. In mid-May of 1980, Ms. Johnson with seven others toured Palestinian refugee camps and institutions, Lebanon and Syria for ten days.

Upon her return, she formed the Ad-Hoc committee to inform the American people about the conditions of Palestinians living in the Israel occupied territories in an "attempt to help arrest the terrible travesty" against the victims of Israeli occupation. Consequently, Ann Johnson became actively involved making several T.V. talk

show appearances and participating in a variety of radio programs to bring the Palestinian cry to American ears. In the last months of her life, she dedicated all her energies to the Palestinian cause.

Ms. Johnson is an example of a commitment to humanity and justice. She witnessed the injustices against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in Lebanon and the occupied territories and unlike many, made it her concern to help her fellow human beings.

A few paragraphs here do not do justice to the achievements of Ann Johnson. For achievements of this kind cannot be measured or even described. However, for many Palestinians and Americans alike, Ann Johnson's memory and commitment will live forever.



Ann Johnson to the left of Yasser Arafat, on visit to Lebanon with American Delegation.

## Excerpts from Samheha Khalil Letter to PHRC, July 7, 1980

Our people suffer unequalled oppression. The Israelis use the most innovative methods of repression against us.

I have already begun to prepare myself—to record events and to fully document my arguments so as to avoid anything but fact and to avoid exaggeration.

You have asked that I speak of the oppression of women; but I honestly must say that I find no distinction in the situation of men and women under occupation. For women are the mothers of martyrs, the sisters of detainees (and prisoners), the owners of blown-up houses and the wives of the men who are deported. Women always suffer their ample share. Therefore, the material that I will send will be comprehensive and will not single women out. It will cover all sectors of the population without exception.

But I must tell you, with great sorrow, that today I was called to the Office of the Military Governor and, in a meeting which lasted less than two minutes, was told that I would be barred from attending any conference in America. Is there anything more unjust?

They want to beat us and kill us. But we are prevented from even saying "uncle." They believe we should thank them for every act of repression which they undertake.

### Ziad Abu-Eain's Mother Arrives in the U.S.

In early August, Ziad Abu-Eain's mother arrived in the United States to begin a campaign in the Washington, D.C. area on behalf of her son. Under the auspices of the Palestine American Congress, Mrs. Abu-Eain toured several states, spending the most time with her son in Chicago. During her stay, August 16 through the 24th was recognized as a week of solidarity with Ziad



Om Ziad at Press Conference in Washington.



Om Ziad leads Palestinian demonstration in Chicago.

Abu-Eain and on August 23rd the Committee for the Defense of Ziad Abu-Eain sponsored a demonstration in solidarity with Ziad. Accordingly, a group of individuals, lead by Ziad's mother, congregated in Chicago to show support for their fellow brother.

Mrs. Abu-Eain's last stop was in Washington, D.C. where she remained for three days and met with various Arab American Organizations, Arab embassies and made an appearance at the Palestine Human Rights Campaign Convention. In addition, on September 4th, she participated in a press conference in which she made an appeal to the American public. August 21st marked one year of imprisonment as a political prisoner for Ziad.

### Israel Asks for More Aid

The Israeli government has submitted a request for 2.9 billion dollars in military and economic aid for 1982. Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron submitted the request to Secretary of State, Edmund Muskie. A group of Israeli economists will go to Congress to lobby for the request in September.

U.S. aid to Israel has been the highest of any country in the world and has for the past three years been about 1.785 billion of which 1 billion dollars is military aid while the rest is economic aid.

The request is expected to be submitted to the U.S. Congress by the end of the year. Meanwhile, American military and economic aid for the fiscal year of 1980 is being used to keep Palestinians under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time, U.S. aid to Israel is the lifeline for the consistent Israeli aggression into South Lebanon which results in the murder of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese civilians.

### Israeli's Lobby for the Annexation of Golan Heights

A political coalition of 41 people organized in Israel dedicated to annexation of the

Golan Heights. They refer to themselves as the Golan lobby and believe that the 500 square miles of occupied Syrian land should officially be the new addition to the expansionist state of Israel.

A petition drawn up by the lobby acquired 760,000 signatures in favor of retaining the occupied Golan Heights as an integral part of Israel. Of the 120 members of the Israeli parliament, 71 signed the petition.

### Expulsion of West Bank leaders Upheld

On August 19th, Israel's highest court upheld the expulsion of West Bank mayors, Fahd Kawasmeh of Al-Khalil and Muhammad Milhem of Halhoul and Sheik Rajib Tamimi of Al-Khalil. The three Palestinian leaders were deported on the morning of May 3rd, having been told they were to be taken to meet Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. Instead, they were left blindfolded at the Lebanese border.

From Amman, the three took their case to Israel's highest court in an attempt to overturn the deportation order. The order was upheld but the three West Bank leaders vowed they would continue their struggle to return home. In much the same spirit, Yusra Kawasmeh, wife of Fahd Kawasmeh said, "We will not stop." "We will go to the International Court in the Hague."

### Palestine-American Congress to Open Its Convention in New York

On September 26th, the Palestine-American Congress will open its second annual convention in New York city. The convention will last three days and is expected to be a marked success. The agenda is made up of a long list of Palestinian notables including Shafiq Al-Hout and Dr. Walid Kamhawi who will speak at a symposium entitled, "The PLO Today". In addition, Karim Khalaf will be the keynote speaker at the opening session and Dr. Fathi Arafat will speak about the Palestine Red Crescent. At the Convention Luncheon on the 28th, Farouk Kaddoumi will be the keynote speaker. Also, the Palestine Folk Troupe will perform at the Convention.

### Palestine Folk Troupe to Tour U.S.

The Palestine Folk Troupe, a group of 28 orphaned young Palestinians is touring the U.S. from September 13 through November 4. The members of the Troupe are all offspring of Martyrs, living in Lebanon under the auspices of the PLO. Two years ago this same troupe toured the United

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## News Briefs

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Palestine Folk Troupe performing in 1978 at Kennedy Center.



One of many nationwide presentations given by Palestine Folk Troupe.

States for approximately three months presenting Palestinian folk music and dance to enthusiastic audiences nation-wide. Their performances were rich in Palestinian culture and reflected the Palestinian pride in their heritage. Responses from audiences were much the same and Americans commented that the genuine nature of the dancers and their performance was a refreshing change to typical commercial dance troupes.

This year the same folk troupe will tour the U.S. from September 13 through November 4, once again bringing the optimism, hope and endurance that characterize the Palestinian revolution, to hundreds. Once again, it will become evident that inspite of Zionist illusions, Palestinians are rich in culture and Palestinian culture lives on!

### American Delegation Returns from Lebanon

On August 12, a delegation of twelve Americans from the Educational profession visited Lebanon. They remained there from 7 to 10 days and witnessed the Israeli aggression of August 18-21 into South Lebanon. Upon returning to the United States, the Palestine Information Office sponsored a press conference in which Ms. Imani Kazana, one of the members of the delegation, issued this statement:

On Sunday, August 17, I toured Southern Lebanon visiting the town of Nabatiya and Beaufort Castle. Contrary to news accounts this week in the Washington Post which reported that this area, which suffered on Tuesday a severe bombing and attack by Israelis, fell outside densely populated civilian areas, I saw a community of approximately 15,000 people. These poor Lebanese people are the remains of what was once a thriving community of 40,000, many of whom had fled into other areas of Lebanon due to almost daily shelling of this area by the Israelis since 1972. Despite such adverse conditions I saw civilian Lebanese trying to hold on to their land and farms and what remains of their houses from the aggressions of Major Haddad, a mercenary of Lebanese descent fully backed with weapons supplied by the United States to Israel.

I also saw what remains of a Palestinian refugee camp that once housed 3,000 people. Only 500 people still live there. I saw young Palestinian children tending herds of goats, and adults worn and tired on a Sunday afternoon desperately trying to remain as close to their native Palestine as possible.

Physically, this community had already been badly damaged. What were once beautiful homes on the hillside are now bombed out ruins. Only one of two school buildings in town is functional as a school because of severe shelling damage to the other. I stood on a site of an elementary school at the mostly destroyed Palestinian camp. More than 100 children were killed when this school was bombed by U.S. financed jets a few years ago. All that remains now is a huge pile of rubble, bomb shelters that could not be reached in time and a rusted basketball pole and rim that stands as a tombstone for dead children buried under the rubble.

Finally, I saw a small number of Palestinians with less than adequate weapons trying desperately to hold back the murderous Haddad. I went inside the historic Beaufort Castle which has on several occasions throughout history been the site from which Palestinians have defended their native Palestine from colonizers and aggressors. A handful of young men defending this strategic site of great importance to the enemy showed us the bombed remains of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force headquarters which stands abandoned adjacent to the castle. It is this small band of Palestinian and Lebanese soldiers that the citizens of this area depend upon for their safety.

Less than 48 hours after my departure from this place, tons of bombs and bullets were unloaded on this entire area in the eyesight of the so-called U.N. Peacekeeping

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Congressman Fauntroy giving message of solidarity at PHRC Convention

### PHRC Holds Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.

The third annual conference of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign was convened September 5-6 in Washington, D.C. Speakers at the conference were very critical of Israel's denial of the Palestinian people's human and national rights and the U.S. government's compliance with these acts. Among them were the former Senator James Abourezk, Delegate Walter Fauntroy of Washington, D.C., Representative John Conyers of Detroit, Reverend Ben Chavis, Edward Said of Comumbia University, Hassan Abdul Rahman, PLO delegate to the U.N. and Tawfiq Zayyad, mayor of Nazareth.

All speakers agreed that the region is reaching the boiling point as a result of Israeli and U.S. denial of the basic human rights of the Palestinian people. All expressed the need for the U.S. government to open dialogue with the PLO. From Lebanon, Yassir Arafat stressed in his message to the convention, "We shall not rest until we achieve our right to return to our homeland, to achieve self-determination and establish our independent Palestinian state on our sacred soil."



James Abourezk at PHRC Convention.

### Israelis Kidnap Lebanese Teenager, Blow Up Home

The night of June 18, an Israeli army unit of some 75 men landed in helicopters in the Lebanese village of Qantara located east of Tyre in a zone controlled by the Nigerian

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## Camp David: Round and Round They Go

In the first week of September, a "new" development took place in the idiosyncratically comical Camp David agreement involving the United States, Egypt and Israel: A new summit to iron out differences over the "autonomy" talks.

This development, if it says anything at all, it says that the Camp David accords have, been simply, failed. For if they have not, what is the point of a new summit?

The failure of the Camp David agreement has always been, of course, inevitable. How could this most unusual of all agreements, an agreement totally divorced from political reality and the region's historical imperatives, succeed?

Here is the case of an agreement, addressing itself to the tale of the Palestinian people, that was reached over the heads and the protest of the Palestinians themselves. Here is the case of bilateral talks, between Egyptians and Israelis to determine the political destiny of the Palestinians. Not only were the representatives of the people whose fate was allegedly being resolved absent from the talks, but the nature, modalities and principles of a settlement of their problem all determined behind their backs.



Chairman Yassir Arafat with victim of Israeli aggression of August 21st.

All of these talks, mind you, were dubbed peace talks. Meanwhile, while these "peace" talks were going on the Egyptian party was forever happy to make concessions—concessions on the question of Palestinian rights, Palestinian land and Palestinian aspirations. The Israeli party accelerated their campaign of terror against the occupied Palestinians, maimed or deported their leaders, declared their categorical objection to Palestinian statehood or evacuation of their occupation forces, built—one colonies in the territories whose future fate was being negotiated, and finally annexed the Arab city of Jerusalem.

As for the American party in the peace



Chairman Arafat and Abu-Jihad inspect positions in South Lebanon.

negotiations, they were no less outrageous.

The Americans not only voted against, or abstained to—voting on, resolutions condemning Israeli practices, they actually increased their economic support for Israel, which indirectly helped Israel to continue with its *modus operandi*.

Indeed, as the United States continued to claim that it was in the business of making peace in Palestine, as an even-handed mediator, its two presidential nominees were falling over each other, all over the country, not only proclaiming their undying support for Israel but also outdoing each other in promises of more economic, political and economic backing for it should they be elected.

Reagan shouted with the microphone, at a B'nai Brith Conference, September 3, that Carter "broke faith with Israel," and Carter told the same Conference, September 5, that the day before he had discussed the negotiations with Begin "on the phone."

Although there are many ways through which peace prospects could be destroyed in Palestine, one wonders whether anything could be worse, or do more harm, than the present process initiated by the U.S. and Israel, with Egypt subserviently going along at every command.

### My Crime...

(Continued from page 3)

"To my full understanding my arrest as a foreign journalist, and my being sentenced five years imprisonment—the maximum provided by the charge against me, was intended first to stop me from visiting Israel and the whole area of occupied Palestine, and continuing doing the work I was doing in

disclosing what is going on behind the show of democracy; disclosing not only the oppression policy in the occupied areas against the Palestinians, but also and even in some cases worse, the discrimination policy against Jews themselves."

"Another aim of my arrest was to set a deterring example for all progressive journalists and teach them a lesson about what would happen to them, if they would follow my way in disclosing the real truth under occupation."

"Another aim was to punish the Cypriot people for their full and unconditional support for the just Palestinian cause, a struggle which has so much in common with our struggle."

"I was and I am in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people to fulfill their legitimate rights, to live freely in their own country."

"Living for almost two years among Palestinian political prisoners I have witnessed the high morale, the endless revolutionary fighting spirit, the hope those people have even for the next day. They know they have the right to demand justice. They are eager for peace, real peace, guaranteeing their secure future far away from capitulationist treaties. Educated people, workers, farmers, simple men, they all understand the hard time they have to live through in the prison, but continue the struggle with the awareness that they shall survive and enjoy the results of their struggle. The unity existing among the vast majority of the political prisoners is so impressive. Characterizing their feelings is what an unforgettable co-prisoner used to tell me: 'We know while our comrades are marching in the funeral of a martyr, that there is a young Palestinian mother smiling triumphantly in the face of her newly-born child'."

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### Women's Ad Hoc Committee...

(Continued from page 4)

the Israeli government against the sovereignty of Lebanon and the destruction being perpetrated against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. In no way can the brutal attacks contribute to peace in the region but will only substantially increase instability and the ominous specter of war. We execrate the complicity of the United States Government in this aggression through its massive economic, military and diplomatic support of Israel. We vehemently call for an end to this illegal and unjust attack on the people of southern Lebanon and call for the United States to end its complicity in and encouragement of such barbaric aggression. As taxpaying voters we would hope that our President would seek out policies and advisors that reflect an awareness of the true situation existing in that part of the world."

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فرقة الفنون الشعبية الفلسطينية بـلبنان الشهادة



## Performance Schedule

Saturday, September 27

Sunday, September 28

Friday, October 3

Saturday, October 4

Sunday, October 5

Tuesday, October 7

Friday, October 10

Saturday, October 11

Sunday, October 12

Thursday, October 16

Saturday, October 18

Sunday, October 19

Friday, October 24

Saturday, October 25

Sunday, October 26

Tuesday, October 28

Thursday, October 30

Saturday, November 1

New York City

Boston, Massachusetts

Syracuse, New York

Buffalo, New York

Cleveland, Ohio

Athens, Ohio

Cincinnati, Ohio

Detroit, Michigan

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

San Juan, Puerto Rico

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New Orleans, Louisiana

Houston, Texas

Dallas, Texas

Madison, Wisconsin

Denver, Colorado

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## In Washington...

(Continued from page 6)

development. His response was "...we were relieved that no one was hurt in that bombing. We understand," he went on to say, "that the Israelis are investigating it."

The absence of any criticism of this terrorist act against a newspaper which is furthermore an American registered corporation and owned by an American citizen is but another example of the US Government's compliance with Israeli acts or at least its reticence regarding any news indicting Israel. Then pressed, State Department spokesperson said "we deplore" acts of violence and are "against people who throw bombs." A known American Washington journalist asked, "Are you against the Afghans throwing bombs against the Soviets?" Laughter and embarrassment followed. An Arab journalist asked if the spokesperson condemns this specific act to which he finally replied "Yes."

In accordance with its well calculated policy designed to silence all opposition to its occupation of Palestinian territory, Israel, late in July, placed seven Palestinian notables including three newspaper editors under house arrest. Again *Al-Fajr* was targeted with the confinement of its editor, Mamoun Al-Sayyed, among them. On August 1, we asked the State Department for a comment on this latest development in the continuing saga of the Arab press under Israeli occupation. Spokesperson John Trattner expressed lack of knowledge of such an event and promised to provide an answer. Two days passed before the following comment was issued: "We have seen the report in question. Our understanding is that the individuals concerned are not incarcerated but are restricted to towns of their residence. Measures such as these are puzzling and are of concern to us. We will be seeking more information." Expressing our own puzzlement at this reply, largely due to our familiarity with previous Department statements regarding similar instances in other countries, we asked if the US considers these Israeli acts to be violations of freedom of the press and of individuals' human rights? And why is this only 'puzzling'? The answer was, "I don't know the circumstances of this particular case...for that reason we obtain the answer you have." Specifically we asked if these acts are perceived by the US as acts against the press, the reply to which was, "Not necessarily!"

What has been presented here is by no means unique to US Government timidity and policy inconsistency towards the Middle East. It is common knowledge to reporters at the State Department and to the employees of that Department's press office that some questions are simply left

unanswered to avoid embarrassing Israel or causing someone at that Department a headache. It may appear strange that a small country like Israel, totally dependent on a super power like the US can maintain a relation which seems to be upside down with the ability of one to influence the other, in 'tiny' Israel's hands, as was shown above.

In trying to fathom and assess the leverage each could exert over the other it would appear that the US should always have the more strings to pull. But while the US could, if it so desired, exert extreme pressure on Israel, Israel has the potential, through its friends in the US, to dampen the political future of any elected US official. And while Israel does exercise to the fullest its right to further its interests, the Arab potential to do the same in untapped. Jesse Jackson, a Black American leader recently compared the Arabs to the wind which could direct the destiny and direction of the ship—the ship of US foreign policy in the Middle East. Yoel Marcos, *Haaretz* correspondent in Washington, wrote on July 10-11, 1980 in *Haaretz* "Our stand in the US is good because our "oil" is American Jewry," implying that Israel's tool for pressuring the US—their equivalent resource to Arab oil is the Jews in the US. But how unfair an analogy that is! For while the Arabs have a sleeping giant, Israel controls an intensely active body working very effectively on its behalf.

## American Delegation

(Continued from page 8)

forces. It is said that the casualties number 40 to more than 200. From what I saw of the population here, it is certain that civilians had to be killed in this attack. I weep inside to think that my young friend, Ibrahim, only fifteen years old, who looks so much like my own son, may have been killed, and what is worse, killed by bombs and bullets which have been paid for by my own tax money. Yes, I personally saw U.S. markings on the remains of shells and bombs.

My seven days in Lebanon was an eye-opening experience. The fact that the Federal Financing Bank extended \$70 million of U.S. tax money in May of this year alone for military weapons to be used to kill Palestinian and Lebanese people has angered me deeply. It is particularly ironic when the same month, the D.C. government was denied funds from the U.S. government to avoid a deficit which caused the lay-off of some 300 teachers.

Why are billions of U.S. tax dollars being used for this senseless killing and for the displacement of people from their land while funds are so desperately needed by the American people for jobs, food stamps, and city deficits? Why is U.S. Alaskan oil sent to Israel at a time when we are told there is a

shortage of oil in the U.S.? Why are there tax deductions given to U.S. citizens who purchase Israeli war bonds?

The Palestinians have been forced off their lands and their homes and belongings taken; they live as refugees in temporary make-shift camps unable to secure work in neighboring countries, which have their own problems, and they suffer inadequate sanitary facilities and medical care. The Palestinians do not share in the same political or economic ideas of the Soviet Union and do not receive much backing from the Soviets as the press would have us believe. The Palestinians do not profess to create a Muslim state as they themselves are made up of Christians, Jews and Muslims and therefore desire to form a democratic, non-sectarian government in Palestine. The P.L.O. is not just an army, but also an organization of men, women and children who build and run hospitals, schools, employment centers and other activities necessary for their human survival. They are a people trying to return home.

Most other countries in the world have recognized these facts and recognize the goals of the Palestinians as valid and reasonable. I see no justification for our tax money that we need for domestic problems right here in D.C., for example, to be sent to keep a senseless war going. It is time for citizens to pressure our representatives in Congress to stop being held hostage by Zionist financial contributions. It is time for taxpaying voters to demand that our government stop providing weapons and bombs to Israel, to establish communications with the P.L.O., and to work vigorously to help end the Middle East war.

## Israeli Kidnap...

(Continued from page 8)

contingent of UNIFIL. After evacuating Mrs. Mohamed Akil Salloum and her nine children from their home (Mr. Salloum was ill in the hospital), they dynamited the 2-story house. The explosion also killed the family's goats in an adjacent coral. Then they abducted the Saloum's 17-year-old son, Akil, forced him aboard a helicopter and returned to Israel. The following evening, Tel Aviv confirmed the incident claiming that the house had been used by Fedayeen and that the person abducted was a "suspect."



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